

THE MOST NOTABLE CHANGE IN FASHION SINCE OUR GRANDMOTHERS!

Paris Dressmakers Have Agreed Upon the Venus De Milo Model, and Women's Waists Will Follow the Broad Lines of the Greek Goddess.



The Wasp Waist.

Dame Fashion Now Frowns on Small Waists.

A revolution has taken place in women's fashions. That pride of every woman's heart, a slender, tapering waist, is no longer the vogue.

What the logic of all dress reformers and the wisdom of all physicians could not accomplish the Paris fashion makers have instantly achieved.

They have announced that the Grecian waist, with its generous proportions, is to be the fashionable standard. Since this announcement it has been astonishing to note the rapidity with which the waists of women have grown larger.

According to a Parisian couturiere, many fashionable women's waists have expanded from four to six inches during a single fitting! That is, women who proudly proclaimed their waist measure to be but nineteen inches, before hearing of fashion's latest edict in regard to the size of their waists, afterward assured the couturiere that their waists measured at least twenty-four inches round.

Such are the wonders which Dame Fashion can perform with womankind.

No longer are women's figures to look like an hour glass fashionably gowned. They are to strive to have the proportion of the Venus de Milo. Wasp-like waists will soon be curiosities and the natural waist, entirely unhampered by tight corsets, will be everywhere.

The fact that fashion says the large waist shall reign means much more than a simple vagary of the modes. If the waist as nature intended it has come to stay. It means that the women who aim to be fashionable will necessarily be stronger physically. It means that for the duties of motherhood they will be better fitted. It means that they will have figures of grace and dignity, and incidentally clearer, fresher complexions, a more stately carriage and happier dispositions. And the world in general will have to thank whom? Not the reformers and hygienists, but the fashion makers.

On the other hand, these same Parisian couturieres would never have thought of advocating the large waist unless the tendency of the age had been in this direction. The fact that women have gone in so enthusiastically for athletics during the past two years has been, in a sense, a preliminary step toward the large waist. There is no doubt that the athletic woman has enjoyed the freedom of her short skirts and comfortable fitting clothes almost as much as she has enjoyed the sports themselves. If it had only been fashionable she might have been tempted before this to loosen her corset lacing and to have her evening gowns not fit quite so snugly.

Of course, many women have done just this, and the corsetless army of women has not for centuries been so large as to-day. But the strictly fashionable woman, whether she rode the bicycle, played golf, or neither, when gowned for the evening displayed a conspicuously slender waist. It was regarded as the fashion, and that settled the matter.

Though her waist has been small and tapering, for the fashionable woman has been gradually growing more sensible in regard to her dress. She no longer tries to wear a No. 2 shoe when her foot requires a No. 4, so the bootmakers say, and, as for her gloves, the day is past when she would think of wearing a size to small. These facts show that the majority of women have an inherent longing to dress comfortably. If they only dared, and that lately this feeling has been greatly increased. It is safe to say that the French dressmakers gratified well the tendency of the

age before they announced the advent of the Grecian waist.

It has long been recognized among sculptors and artists that the nearer they could approach the figures of the Grecian women the more beautiful would be their work. Out of this and as a result of many accurate measurements, there grew a certain rule of thumb which became at once the standard of true proportions for the female figure. This is as follows: "Twice around the thumb is the size of the wrist, twice around the wrist is the size of the neck and twice around the neck is the size of the waist."

The first step in the Paris styles to show that the waists were growing larger and that it was the fashion that they should was the introduction of the broad taffeta silk belts. These belts or girdles were first worn when the very narrow leather belt was at the height of its glory here. The Parisian gowns with these belts show the silk wound loosely twice around the figure and then tied at the side in a large bow. Many of them are made of velvet as well as silk, and they make even the smallest waist look large.

Broad girdles are also much the vogue. The newest consist of bands of velvet studded with mock jewels. They are specially designed to be worn with an Empire gown. Short waisted effects are coming into vogue rapidly, particularly for evening costumes. Not only age the Parisian couturieres favoring the large waist, but many of the leading New York dressmakers are following in their footsteps.

Here is what a number of the best modistes in town have to say on the subject:

Mme. Marchetti: "The large waist is the most striking novelty in dressmaking at present. A year ago the majority of gowns which I made had twenty-inch waists. This year the average waist measure is twenty-five inches. No woman of fashion will countenance the wasp-like waist. The general tendency is for the straight up and down effects, with no pronounced curves visible."

Mme. Rollings, of Fifth avenue, said: "The day of the small, contracted waist is over. Fashionable women are as sensible these days as they are stylish. The average waist measure of the gowns I have made this summer has been twenty-five inches. A year or so ago a woman would have considered herself deformed with a waist as large as this. Now, after she has reached the age of discretion, she glories in it. Much of this change of opinion is due to the exercise which she has been taking. A strong, athletic woman who has been wearing comfortable-fitting outdoor costumes all day finds it very difficult to enjoy a dance or a dinner in a gown worn over a tightly laced corset. She knows so well the joy of having her clothes comfortable that she seldom submits to tight lacing more than once. The result is her waist is assuming its natural proportions. Then the average woman dresses to please the men, and the men of to-day are particularly in favor of a waist of sensible size—that is, as far as their wives are concerned. In Paris the waist measure is rapidly growing larger, and there is no doubt that it is increasing in size here in New York."

A representative of Mme. Cecille Phillips, a Fifth avenue corset maker, said: "There has been a great change in the size of corsets during the past year. The waist measure is steadily growing larger. Two years ago the waist measure of the average woman was about eighteen inches. This year it is twenty-four inches, and it is

rapidly increasing in size. Once it was no uncommon thing for me to make to order corsets with a seventeen-inch waist, but now such a thing is unheard of among the best class of women. There is also a marked change in the making of corsets. They are now all made much broader below the bust than they used to be. At one time it was thought that they must taper there. Now instead the broad effect is desired. This makes the corset much more comfortable than of old."

Mrs. Smith, the forewoman at Mme. O'Donovan's, said: "Women have never before cared so much about having their clothes comfortable as they have this season. Tight lacing has gone out of fashion. Wasp-like waists are seldom seen. The average waist measure is twenty-four inches, while a year or so ago it was twenty inches. If American women copy the French styles this Fall they will look very different from what they have for many a year. Small sleeves and large waists are to be the prevailing fashion at the French capital."

The designer for Lord & Taylor, who has just returned from Paris, said: "Large waists are all the vogue in Paris, and Jane Harding and Bernhardt are in the height of fashion. Women are rapidly learning the importance of not confining their bodies. They are beginning to appreciate that their clothes are not made to deform them, but to cover them. Very small waists are no longer admired. In Paris the old-fashioned girdle is being much worn. It merely gracefully holds the folds of the gown in place. Soft broad belts of silk are also in favor. The coming of the large waist is to my mind merely a sign of the times. Women are more independent in thought, dress and action than they have been. They have ceased to pinch their foot into a shoe two sizes too small for them, and likewise they no longer contract the size of their waists by tight lacing. The Paris fashion of large waists, which is sure to reign in New York in the Fall, is not only more hygienic than the small waist, but much more artistic."

Mme. Brunner said: "The bicycle is largely responsible for the large waist now the fashion in Paris. The wheelwoman would not dare to wear tightly laced corsets while riding, and she has become so accustomed to the delight of wearing loose fitting clothes that she can't bear to go back to the corset which fits like a vise. Consequently in a measure she is ready to welcome the generously proportioned Grecian waist, but the fashionable standard must not be too large or then she will be inclined to rebel. The waists of the gowns which I have made this year have been at least two sizes larger than last season. Every woman seems to be anxious to have her gowns fit so that she may have perfect ease of movement, which says much for her good sense. It is safe to say that now that the large waist is considered the correct thing abroad, the waists of American women will suddenly take to expanding."

The New Venus De Milo Waist.

DON'T HATE JOHN BULL.

Samuel Plimsoll Says
We Ought to Love
Him as a
Brother.

"If you put aqua fortis into an infant's bottle instead of the milk of human kindness, what are you to expect?"

Mr. Samuel Plimsoll, the English philanthropist, put this question to a Sunday Journal reporter. Mr. Plimsoll has come all the way from London for the purpose of teaching Americans that the rancor which they harbor against Englishmen is a mistake. It was a disappointment to him to find Congress adjourned, because he intended to talk persuasively on the subject to some of the Senators and Representatives.

He is also sorry to discover that he has missed the buckwheat cake season, and that oysters are out just now. Of both of these delicacies he is extremely fond; the oysters he means to have anyway. The old gentleman has snowy hair and beard, and as he spoke he beamed through his spectacles in a kindly manner.

"You feed your children on the aqua fortis of hatred toward the British," said he. "The school histories placed in their hands are full of bitter words against England and the English. Their young minds are filled with these ideas from the time when they first begin to learn, and they grow up victims to the disease of Anglophobia."

"Look at any of your school histories now in use, and read what they have to say about the war of the revolution. Their utterances are the echoes of the writings of men who lived a century or more ago—who wrote not long after the conflict had come to an end, and when the rancor of the international quarrel had not had time to die down."

"Your children are taught to perpetuate this rancor—to hug the hatred for the mother country. What I desire to show is the complete absence of any reciprocal feeling of this kind on our side."

"As for the revolution and the outcome of the war, do you imagine that the English still bear malice on account of it? By no means! I will venture to say that there is not an Englishman living who is not heartily glad that you won."

"Do you suppose that in that conflict you were fighting against the people of England? If such is your notion, you are much

mistaken. In those days nine-tenths of the English people had no control in the affairs of the nation—no more influence in fact, than a dog that trots along the street."

"The English people of that period were the down-trodden victims of a small class, an aristocratic oligarchy, which, by the making and enforcement of abominable laws, oppressed the many. It was this class that alienated the heart of Ireland."

"The men who held the power in those days were as bad in their way, and as indifferent to human rights as the feudal barons of old on the Rhine. This was the class which made the yoke of England intolerable to the American colonies. The oligarchy oppressed you just as it oppressed us."

"When you, by a supreme effort, freed yourself of the tyranny of the titled usurpers of rights which God never gave them, we were thankful and wished that we had the same luck. But we were obliged to plod along for generations, gaining our liberties by degrees."

"I assert with confidence that your country would not be what it is to-day but for the help of the strong hand of England in your infancy. We drove out the French for you, and we kept the Indians in check. You improved your opportunity, that is all. Now I come over here, and I stand amazed in the contemplation of your growth and resources. I say, God help the nation that ever runs up against you!"

"One cannot be here a week without being struck by the possibilities of extension and development which are ahead of you. I hope that you will have an increase of national good sense; otherwise it will be a bad thing for mankind at large, inasmuch as nobody will be able to stand against you."

"Before I left England I made a collection of the various histories which are used in our schools. From these I culled those parts which relate to the war of the revolution."

"They make interesting reading when compared with like passages from your school histories. Not in one of these books can be found an unkind reference to America, while several of them speak most sympathetically of the struggle of the colonies for freedom."

"The English school books of which I speak," continued Mr. Plimsoll, have been placed by me in official hands in Washington. I shall try to get together a collection of the school histories of the United States, but it will be imperfect necessarily, inasmuch as each State uses its own, and there are so many States."

"Our only feeling about the revolution is that we are sorry we did not part from you with a handshake. We are all proud that you won the fight."

"We admire your courage and glory in your achievements. I believe that we shall be better friends before long; you will find that you have been mistaken in us."

"I speak the mind of England when I say that there is nothing we desire so much as the friendship of the United

States. We are the foremost nation in Europe; not one of the other powers could stand against us."

"We don't want a dollar from you, or an acre of your land. What we do want is your good will, your cordial friendship."

"The loss of the American colonies was a great lesson to England; it was a most valuable bit of teaching in the lesson of colonization. From that misfortune we learned not to look for revenue to our colonies."

"Never since that day have we charged one cent of revenue against a colony of ours. There is no other nation in Europe that, when she gets full control of a colony, does not put a hedge around it to keep foreigners out."

"England makes all corners welcome. There is something closely analogous between the acquisition of colonies by us and the acquisition of new States by you."

"What a wonderful country this is! You have by dozens and scores what we possess in units—big cities, for example. This is going to be the greatest nation on earth before very long."

"But I foresee dangers looming up ahead of you—dangers to which you are not alive. You are in no little peril of tumbling to pieces, owing to the growth of elements of dissent in different sections. This danger can only be guarded against by the rule of broad and liberal minded men."

"You have a class growing up here which is putting the yoke on the necks of the common people. Your capitalists are employing the machinery of trusts and syndicates to wring enormous sums from producers. Already the sums thus unjustly gained from the producers exceed in total the cost of the Federal, State and municipal governments. Pretty soon the common people will be paying double for everything they consume."

"What we call the prairie value of land in your country is the value of land to which the industry of man has added nothing. England has about 2,000 miles of coast line."

"Suppose that we could push the sea back a distance of one mile all around—we should add to our possessions 2,000 square miles."

"The prairie value of land in England is \$50 an acre, or \$2,000 a square mile. By pushing the sea only one mile back we should add to our wealth \$4,000,000,000."

"But what would this amount to compared with the opportunities in your case—inasmuch as you can add to your possessions practically unlimited land? Thus there is no limit to your riches. We have had to make our money by saving and slow toil while you can take it easy and gather in the wealth, saying, like Jack Horner, 'What a good boy am I!'"

"You Americans are afflicted with one unfortunate delusion. You imagine that nothing is worth struggling for but dollars. This is the money-making age here. Perhaps you will reach the heroic age later."

"As for my mission here, there is very little to be said about it. I come as a private citizen, and not as the representative of any society or organization. I have delivered my school histories, and I shall take some of yours back with me. With a few of your prominent men I shall talk, and then I shall return quietly."

"I cannot expect to revolutionize American sentiment with regard to England, but I feel pretty confident that before very long the nations will be drawn together by a closer sympathy. England and the United States as allies could stand against the military power of all the other nations of the world. Such an alliance would surely safety for the future of the Anglo-Saxon race."

ABOUT NOTED PERSONS.

Short Paragraphs Which Tell of the Doings of the Great and Famous.

When President Krueger, vassal, released the reform prisoners, these oracular remarks: "My little dog, but I am always sorry to do so. Next time I must get hold of the big dog. My little dogs bark, but the big one bites."

President Krueger is an able statesman, but an unhappy subject for the sculptor, as is demonstrated by a statue of him to be erected at Pretoria. The President is portrayed in the usual garb which he affects on Sundays and special occasions, with his evil-looking tall hat of the fashion of some fifteen years ago. The statue is of bronze and is to be mounted on a pedestal and columns of granite, and at each corner there will be a figure representing a Transvaal burgher in the attitude of defence.

The Dowager Duchess of Newcastle has taken up her residence in Whitechapel, the poorest and lowest district in London. She lives in a very small house, just big enough to hold herself and her two friends and assistants, Miss Rosamond French and Miss Fortescue. The Duchess, who is still remarkably handsome and who is well-known in society for her exceptional musical talent, has for the past four years devoted herself entirely to the very poor Catholics in the East End, some 3,000 in all.

The probability of a collapse of the Austrian Empire before many years is great. The Archduke Franz Ferdinand, nephew, and, since the death of his father, the Archduke Karl Ludwig, heir presumptive of the Emperor of Austria, is now in his thirty-third year, but in health so feeble that he was not allowed to attend his father's funeral. He is unmarried. Since he inherited the property of Francis V., the last Duke of Modena, in 1875, he has styled himself Archduke of Austria-Este. This Archduke's heir and brother, the Archduke Otto, has made himself so notorious throughout Europe by his profligacy that it is doubtful now if even Austria would accept him as a monarch. The aged Emperor has, therefore, as heirs a dying invalid and a discredited man. The various races of the heterogeneous empire are ready at a convenient moment to assert their independence.

According to an English authority, it is Rudyard Kipling's intention to dispose of his house at Brattleboro, which was built specially for him. He will in future reside in Wiltshire. A Rudyard Kipling birthday book is being prepared, with illustrations, by Mr. Lockwood Kipling, the father of the distinguished author.

Bishop Francis Moynan, who was last year appointed to the newly created Roman Catholic Bishopric of Wales, has recently become the fortunate possessor of a mitre which is said to surpass in magnificence and in exquisite workmanship anything of the kind worn in Great Britain for many centuries past. Of white embroidered silk, richly ornamented with gold, it is studded with 500 precious stones. The mitre, which is Gothic in design, bears on its front a dove, symbolic of the Holy Spirit, in gold repousse work, encircled by garnets, and a heart formed of a single carbuncle of large size, with jeweled rays. The whole is surmounted by a cross, composed of thirty-three gems. On the back are the figures of the Welsh patron saints (St. David and St. Winefride), beautifully wrought in the Welsh colors, and surrounded by rubies, emeralds and pearls. At the apex appears the national emblem—the Welsh harp—encircled by topazes and aquamarines, which is an exact copy of the ancient "Arlundaw," which tradition declares to have remained in the possession of the Moynan family from early centuries.